

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 1-12 with the following replacement paragraph:

Amino acid substitutions may be made in nonconserved regions that retain function. In general, such substitutions would not be made for conserved amino acid residues, or for amino acid residues residing within a conserved motif, where such residues are essential for protein activity. Examples of residues that are conserved and that may be essential for protein activity include, for example, residues 103, 122, 124, 168, 170, 180, 185-188, 190, 191, 196, 204, 205, 225, 257, 262, 287, 321, 496, ~~508-518~~, ~~509-519~~, and 575 of SEQ ID NO:3. Examples of residues that are conserved but that may allow conservative amino acid substitutions and still retain activity include, for example, residues 106, 109, 110, 125, 132, 139, 152, 167, 172, 183, 194, 195, 199, 211, 233, 240, 260, 271, 329, 332, 336, 480, ~~511-521~~, 587, 620, and 626 of SEQ ID NO:3. However, one of skill in the art would understand that functional variants may have minor conserved or nonconserved alterations in the conserved residues.